



Reminder to All Music Lovers

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav presents Ronnie Gilbert (formerly of the legendary Weavers) in concert on Saturday, May 13 at 8 pm. Tickets will be available in advance and at the door, but don't wait to make that date! Mark your calendars now, and the calendars of those near and dear or those you want to get to know better. Details will be in the next installment.

1989 Elections Slate

The Elections Committee has nominated candidates for our 1989 congregational elections. The voting will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting at 4 pm on Sunday, May 21. Open positions will be president, vice president, treasurer, recorder, and five two-year terms on the Va'ad.

If you are a member in good standing, wish to run, and have not been contacted by the Elections Committee, you may add your name to the slate. Simply send a letter stating the position for which you wish to run. Your letter must be in the synagogue office no later than 5 pm, April 6.

The final slate will be listed in the May *Forward* and it will be included in a mailing of elections materials to all members. The mailing will also include candidates' statements and instructions if you wish to vote by absentee ballot. If you haven't received this elections packet by April 21, please contact the synagogue office.

FORWARD

Cemetery for Sha'ar Zahav

Two years ago, the Va'ad appointed a committee to explore the cemetery options available to the congregation. In September 1988, the committee presented a detailed report to the Va'ad, which began:

"Our tradition teaches that burying a person is one of the greatest mitzvahs, because it is a favor which can never be repaid. Yet many of us are not comfortable discussing funerals and cemeteries—the 'business of death,' if you will. The subject is naturally emotion-filled and can be difficult; the decisions which each of us must make about it should be approached in both a businesslike and a sensitive manner.

"The Cemetery Committee began its work in large part because we recognized its practical and emotional importance in the AIDS epidemic. With the death of our friend and past president, Cheryl Orvis, its importance became even clearer. Ours has not been the usual Sha'ar Zahav committee work. Standing on a beautiful green hillside and being moved to tears by the work you are doing for the synagogue, while at the same time sorting out information about location and price of burial plots, is an altogether unique experience."

The Cemetery Committee (Irene Ogus, Paul Cohen and Richard Inlander, chair) had explored each avenue that presented a reasonable possibility. Ultimately we found that our friends at Congregation Sherith Israel offered all that we could ask. After thoughtful negotiations and with Va'ad approval, President Robin Leonard signed an agreement with our sibling Reform synagogue on February 16.

As is customary for synagogues our size in arranging for cemetery space, the contract does not call for Sha'ar Zahav to purchase any land, as this would be beyond our means. It does give us exclusive use of our own area within the historic and beautiful *Hills of Eternity*, which is owned and operated by Sherith Israel, in Colma. We selected an area situated high on a sloping hill, sur-

rounded by some of the oldest and most beautiful and interesting grave sites, including an area dedicated exclusively to children. Ours is the area in which Cheryl is buried. In addition to our own cemetery area for traditional ground burial, our members also have complete privileges to use other facilities offered at *Hills of Eternity*. These include crypts for above-ground interment in both indoor and outdoor mausoleums, and niches and other provisions for interment of cremated remains.

Through express agreement in our contract with Sherith Israel, all areas and services at *Hills of Eternity* are available to members of CSZ, their spouses or same-sex partners (including those not of the Jewish faith), and the children of both members and their partners. Also, the price paid to Sherith Israel by our members for all services and facilities will be the same as that paid by their own members. The CSZ General Fund will receive a small percentage of the price you pay for use of the facilities, and so in taking care of these important and inevitable arrangements you are also making a donation to your own synagogue.

A brochure with a complete explanation of the facilities and services available and of the terms will be published by the Cemetery Committee, and a dedication ceremony is planned for the High Holy Day season. In the meantime, all the services and facilities of our cemetery and of *Hills of Eternity* are now available to our members and their families.

Are you interested in helping with the work of this committee? As our report to the Va'ad said, "In giving each of us the opportunity to be buried in our own family plot, the creation and care of the Sha'ar Zahav Cemetery will provide profound comfort not only to our members who are now ill, but to all of us, and to those who come after us." Our work is just beginning. For information or to join in this mitzvah, please call Richard Inlander, 821-4134.

UAHC Biennial: He Ain't Hubby, He's My Vice President

The weekend of February 24–26 was the UAHC regional biennial in Monterey. Nine Sha'ar Zahavniks participated—David Glassberg, Richard Inlander, Rabbi Kahn, Eric Keitel, Allyce Kimerling, Mike Rankin, Andy Rose, Ben Schalit and I.

I went assuming that everyone active in a UAHC congregation knows CSZ has an outreach to the lesbian and gay community. Not so. Our friends here in San Francisco know, and so do those in the leadership of the UAHC itself, but most of the 200 or so attendees hadn't a clue. What a delightful surprise for everyone. I'm glad we're known as a "special" congregation, yet, because of our specialness, I had the opportunity to educate, break stereotypes and make new friends.

On Friday afternoon, Eric and I visited the "hospitality room." I chatted on one side of the room while Eric schmoozed on the other. I joined Eric when I heard him say, "Oh, she's not my wife; she's our synagogue's president." What followed was Eric and me talking about CSZ to about 10 people, telling them about our services, membership and programming. All were surprised to know we existed; all wanted to come and visit.

Later that evening Eric and I had dinner at the home of Rick and Diana, members of Beth Israel, our host congregation. Another member, Frieda (about 70 years young), joined us. When we arrived, Diana asked if we were married; "Oh no," I said, "Eric is vice president of the synagogue and I'm president."

Conversation was polite, but non-revealing. Then Rick asked, "So how big is your religious school?"

"Well," I swallowed, "about a dozen students in two classes. You see, Sha'ar Zahav has an outreach to the lesbian and gay community. This is the first year of our religious school. But as the number of children in our congregation continues to grow, we expect our religious school will grow as well."

Stares. Not shocked or disgusting stares, just stares. Then Rick broke the silence. "Wow, that's fascinating."

"You have some gay members?" Frieda asked, wanting numbers.

"Most. About 90 to 95 percent."

"Oy, I'm plotzing," she laughed. "Do you have a rabbi?" she continued.

"Oh yes, Frieda. A full-time rabbi," Eric replied.

"Oy vey. Oy, I love it."

Frieda, Rick and Diana asked many more questions—how big? how old? how many children? do we have a building? how many attend services? how many participate elsewhere? what are our dues? (a common UAHC question). Rick observed that we were the most active and participatory congregation he'd ever heard about. He wished his synagogue was more like ours.

We left dinner and attended services in a gorgeous new building, exactly the size Sha'ar Zahav needs. At the end of the service when congregants shook hands and wished each other "Shabbat Shalom," Rick gave Eric and me hugs. The next day when we were selling cookbooks, Frieda proudly bought one.

On Saturday and Sunday, Sha'ar Zahavniks led and participated in three workshops. I chaired "Outreach"; David, Allyce and Rabbi Kahn led "Legal, Medical and Ethical Issues in AIDS"; and David, Andy and Mike presented "What Your Congregation Can Do About AIDS." In the room where the AIDS seminars were given, a panel from the quilt hung. It was a powerful sight, and had as much of an impact as the presentations themselves. Throughout the weekend we sold cookbooks—two cases, in fact. Many people asked us to get the book stocked in their synagogue gift shops.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend for me was the Convention Dinner Saturday night. UAHC President Rabbi Schindler gave a moving speech on Israel. But what touched me even more was my conversation with the woman to my right.

Barbara was about 70. When she asked if Eric and I were married, I told her who we, and Sha'ar Zahav, were. She dropped her head close to mine and said, "These things don't bother me. But don't talk too loud. He (rolling her eyes toward her husband) wouldn't understand."

We talked for a while and she said, "Robin, I must tell you something. I have a niece named Robin. She lives in Boston and teaches at MIT. She just won \$20,000

in a poetry contest."

"You must be very proud," I said.

"I am. I love my Robin dearly." Barbara leaned her head close to mine again and whispered, "My Robin—she's gay, too. You'd love her."

We talked all evening. Before Barbara left, I gave her my address and asked her to stay in touch. Three days later I got a note from her. "Enclosed is a check for \$15; please send a cookbook to my Robin. You were a delightful dinner companion. My love to you and Lee."

The national UAHC biennial is this November in New Orleans. I can't wait.

—Robin Leonard, President

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Henry Mach, and Leonard Brill and Margaret Livingston (general editorial and production), Amy Blasenheim (photos), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Behind the Mehitzah: Purim Reconsidered

I don't think Purim is such a swell reason for a party. At least, it doesn't seem that way from where I'm sitting. Oh sure, it's a terrific story—and like all good fairy tales contains a villain, a beautiful heroine and a rabble-rousing cliff-hanger of an ending. And every year, kids knee-high to a pew gather 'round for the megillah to be read and hear the story of Esther, "A Model Queen."

But perhaps we might consider some of what that story is in fact teaching the children growing up today. It opens with a drunken husband requesting his wife to appear before his carousing buddies "to display her beauty to the peoples." His wife refuses and causes great consternation; she is summarily set aside so as to teach that "all wives will treat their husbands with respect."

What follows next is a beauty contest in which Esther wins the crown and the man. (She has her modern-day equivalent in the story of Bess Myerson, who provided a model for so many women of my generation as America's first Jewish beauty queen.) Eventually our Queen Esther is called upon to perform a heroic deed—to risk her life. She balks at first, and only when assured that her own life is on the line does she rise to the occasion. She wins the king's favor—again by her beauty alone—and sure enough saves our people. Every year as this story is told and retold, it instructs children once more in this image of Jewish womanhood—the punch you pack on the runway is what really counts.

Is this actually the message we want to continue to give our children? Might we not as a congregation consider creating another holiday to celebrate Jewish heroism and give a party for that? Instead of the make-believe of beautiful Queen Esther, might we not turn to the story of "a woman of valor"—a woman we would want our children to emulate? Deborah, a prophetess and a judge in Israel—a woman who is celebrated for her abilities to lead rather than for her body's beauty. Deborah, our Joan of Arc, who summons the troops to defeat Israel's enemies. This is not any mythic tale, but one of the chronicles of Israel's heroes (Judges 4-5). Yet how many little girls grow up wanting to play Deborah in their Hebrew School pageant?

We even have two great heroines in

this story for the price of one. For here also is the story of Jael who uses not her sexuality to fell Israel's foe, but her obvious intelligence in finding a strategy to disarm the enemy. She coolly welcomes him into her home, wins his trust through actions boldly undertaken and strikes a blow for Israel's freedom with a hammer and tent peg instead of a bump and grind. How much more an example of Jewish womanhood are Deborah and Jael who act wisely and heroically on behalf of our people. Might it not be worth discussing with children why the Lord decrees that the enemy will be "delivered into the hands of a woman" rather than retelling the story of a woman's mere beauty being our saving grace?

Would it not make for a wonderful party to sing the "Song of Deborah" and celebrate her leadership and courage and that of "most blessed of women" Jael? The same costumes could suffice and the singing and dancing be just as robust. And there's no reason to sacrifice the pleasures of the table. With a little pat here and a little pat there, Hamantaschen dough can easily be reshaped into *Jael's Hammers* ... poppyseed and prune. Would that the consciousness of our contemporaries could be so easily re-formed.

So by all means, let's have a party. But let it be a celebration of those qualities we value as true womanhood and not the hackneyed, millennia-old images whose reinforcement keeps women behind the walls of prejudice and cliche. A party indeed—pick a date ... and I'll start baking.

—S.L.F.

Here an Oneg, There an Oneg ...

We all love our onegs—they provide an opportunity to schmooze with our friends, meet newcomers and visitors, and introduce ourselves to seasoned Sha'ar Zahavniks. But like all programs and services at Sha'ar Zahav, our onegs take some work. Not a lot of work; but work nonetheless.

For our onegs to continue as they are now, our oneg chair, Susan Stahl, needs some help. She cannot be expected to do all the work herself. Anyone who can spare not even two hours (45 minutes to an hour to set up before services and about 30-45 minutes to clean up afterwards), can help with the onegs.

Perhaps there's some confusion as to what is meant by "helping with the onegs." It does not involve spending money, sponsoring the oneg, or even picking up the food. Oneg sponsorship is completely separate, arranged in advance through the synagogue office. And the food is delivered to the synagogue on Friday afternoons. Helping with the onegs is simply pouring wine and grape juice, setting up the coffee and tea, and arranging the platters before services, and putting away the food after services. It doesn't even involve washing dishes, throwing away the trash or cleaning tables—we have a shammus/custodian who comes in and does that.

So now that you know what it takes to help with the onegs, what are you waiting for? For Susan to call you? Unfortunately, she doesn't know your name or number, so why don't you call her at 821-9213.

—Robin Leonard, President

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Rabbi's Column

Thoughts on Passover

According to our rabbis, "When [the month of Adar] enters, so does happiness." Usually, this phrase is connected to the joy of Purim which falls during Adar. But maybe it refers to Passover! I am writing this column before Purim but am already excitedly looking forward to Passover—my favorite time of the year. By the time you read this, Passover will be just around the corner and my excitement will be that much greater. Pesach weaves together the most wonderful elements of our rich tradition: ritual, music, inspiration, global and cosmic concerns (Exodus, national liberation, a social vision), personal concerns (coming out, personal liberation, a social vision), and great food. Passover's symbols and levels of meaning can inform and be reflected in every aspect of our lives. Too often, though, Passover begins and ends the night of the Seder.

One way to extend the observance of Passover past the Seder night is to observe the prohibition of *chometz* (leaven) during Passover. According to *halach* (traditional Jewish law), not only must any *chometz* product be out of the kitchen before Passover, we should not even have them in our possession but instead sell or give them away. Cleaning one's house and removing *chometz* in accordance with the *halachic* standard requires more energy and commitment than most of us have. How to meaningfully observe this tradition is a challenge for us.

Those of us who find ourselves somewhere between acceptance and total rejection of the chometz laws will have to struggle with the tradition and with ourselves to create a mode of observance that feels right for each of us. There have been many extra restrictions added over time to the laws of chometz. These restriction can be seen as arising from a deep concern about not violating the laws of chometz and thus as reflecting a love of the tradition and a desire to embellish it. On the other hand, these restrictions can also be seen as arising from an obsessive compulsion that borders on making the tradition into an idolatry [Michael Strassfeld, *The Jewish Holidays*]

This tension, between enhancing our observance through deeper commitment and obsessive concern with irrelevant detail, is continually present in our efforts to create standards of personal

and communal Jewish living. At the core of Passover is the call to radical change—to prepare to uproot ourselves from our regular pattern of doing things if the call to freedom demands it. The new mindset of the Passover season, the possibility of taking immediate steps to change how we act, the ability to survive without what we once considered "essential," the looking in hidden places for forgotten things, the pride (leaven) which keeps us from altering our course—all of these can be symbolized and recalled in the rules of *chometz*.

On the other hand, Passover cautions us against false idols. The detailed observance of the *halachic* rules on *chometz* are no guarantee that one will make the connections to the meaning of all these acts. In fact, the time and energy required to fulfill them all can become a barrier to exploring the true meaning of Passover, if an obsessive concern with "doing it right" squeezes out what ought to be forefront: "*Ma nishtanah?* Why do we do this?"

The "hows" and "whys" of *chometz*, the Seder and other customs and themes of the Passover season will be the topic of "Preparing for Passover," on Tuesday evenings, April 4 and 11, 8:30-9:45 pm in the synagogue library. The first session, "Personalizing the Seder," will explore the symbols and themes of the Passover Seder and how to make your own observance richer and more meaningful. The second session, on April 11, "Continuing the Journey: The Spirituality of Pesach," will focus on expanding and deepening observance of the entire Passover season.

Parents and others leading Seders with children are invited to a program on "Including Children in the Seder" on Saturday morning, April 8, from 9:30 to 11 am, in the sanctuary. To read more about the holiday, the Seder, and the rules of *chometz*, I again call your attention to Michael Strassfeld's *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary*.

Best wishes for a liberating and joyous Passover season.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

MEMBERSHIP
feels good

Yahrzeits

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Geraldine Minsky Rankin,
mother of Mike Rankin |
| 2 | Kayla B. Given, mother of Laurie
Hauer |
| 2 | Ron Gertz, lover of Howard
Blechman and member of
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav |
| 3 | Irving Rosenbaum, father of
Robin Rosenbaum |
| 4 | Rebecca Hilsenrad, grandmother
of Marjorie Hilsenrad |
| 4 | John Trojanski, friend of David
Glassberg |
| 6 | Rebecca Nutes, grandmother of
Barry Siegel |
| 7 | Erwin Epstein, father of Nancy
Epstein |
| 9 | Jacob Feldman, father of Susan
Sobel-Feldman |
| 10 | (Nisan 5) Meyer Solove, grandfa-
ther of Ora Prochovnick |
| 10 | Esther Polies, aunt of Marjorie
Hilsenrad |
| 10 | (Nisan 6) Edward Heilbrunn,
father of Randy Heilbrunn |
| 13 | (Nisan 8) Max Pechter, father of
Bernard Pechter |
| 14 | (Nisan 9) Bessie Landesman,
grandmother of Jonathan
Goldman |
| 14 | F.E. Loewenstein, father of
Margaret Livingston |
| 15 | (Nisan 10) Max Radetsky,
grandfather of Allan Berenstein |
| 15 | Kiva Hornstein, grandfather of
Francie Hornstein |
| 18 | (Nisan 13) Pauline Kohlhagen
Cahn, mother of Isabel Fishman |
| 20 | (Nisan 15) Rebecca Glusberg,
mother of Yoram Gal |
| 20 | (Nisan 15) Berle Glusberg, father
of Yoram Gal |
| 21 | Lynn Campbell, lover of Cheri
Pies |
| 21 | Eugene Blau, grandfather of
Lonnie Weiss |
| 23 | John Bamberger, father of Jenifer
B. Dahlstrom |
| 25 | Irving Brill, father of Leonard
Brill |
| 25 | Lena Klibansky, great-aunt of
Carol Hoffman |
| 27 | Dora Yoffie, aunt of Stephanie
Hannaford |
| 27 | James Howard Tishler, friend of
Howard Bobren |
| 30 | Jimmy Pearson, friend of Daniel
Chesir |

Women's Chavurah

East Bay Potluck

The Women's Chavurah will have a potluck at Susan and Sarah's in Oakland on Saturday, May 6. The evening will begin with Havdalah at 6 pm, followed by dinner. Those whose last names begin with A-F should bring desserts (most important, of course!); L-Z should bring a main dish; and those whose last names begin with G-K should bring a salad or vegetable. Their house is at 6501 Pinehaven, off Thornhill, in the Montclair District of Oakland. If you need directions, or if you want to let us know you're coming, please call Susan at 399-1662 after 6 pm.

Israel Chavurah

Israeli Theater

The CSZ Israel Chavurah will join with a new group of Bay Area gay and lesbian Israelis at a very special Israeli theater event on Wednesday, April 12.

The Tel Aviv-based Neve Tzedek Theater, with its tradition of outspoken viewpoints, was created to encourage, nurture and shape original Israeli theater as an integral part of Jewish heritage and Israeli culture.

Their April 12 performance (in English), co-sponsored by the New Israel Fund, will be *Everything's Fine: An International Collage*. The presentation is made up of selections which address issues ranging from the Holocaust to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A discussion with the cast and a reception with dessert will follow.

The play will be performed at Life on the Water Theater, Fort Mason Center, Building "B," San Francisco at 8 pm; the cost is \$13.

The two *chavurot* will also gather for a pre-theater dinner at 6 pm at the Just Like Home Restaurant, 1924 Irving, between 20th and 21st avenues, in San Francisco. For further information, please call Ron at 824-4449.

Consul General Kney-Tal to Speak

At our Shabbat service on Friday, May 12, the Honorable Harry Kney-Tal, consul general of Israel, will be our guest speaker. We are particularly pleased that his talk, to be followed by questions and answers, will be on the Shabbat during the community-wide observance of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).

Eleventh International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews

The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be gathering in Chicago this August for its 11th International Conference. Approximately 300 gay and lesbian Jews from more than a dozen countries around the world will be joining together for this exciting event.

The three-day conference will include religious services, social activities and absorbing workshops related to this year's conference theme, "Choosing to Make a Difference." It is being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. Be sure to save the weekend of August 24-27 for this major event. For more information, write or call Congregation Or Chadash, 656 West Barry St., Chicago, IL 60657, (312) 248-9456.



Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | Donald Abrams & Mark Henry |
| 13 | Jane Graeven & Mark Graeven |
| 15 | Scott Feinstein & Ernie Weinstein |
| 21 | Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick |
| 24 | David Nahmod & Aaron Frankel |

Hannah Weeps

On Sunday, May 7 from 1:30 to 5 pm, Jewish Family and Children's Services is sponsoring a conference: "Infertility, Adoption, and the Jewish Family." The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Michael Gold, well-known author of *And Hannah Wept: Infertility, Adoption and the Jewish Couple*, and an adoptive father of two.

Workshops will follow. The cost is \$20 per person, \$35 per couple. The conference will be held at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco. For more information or registration, call Sharon (Adoptions Program) at 567-8860 ext. 252.

New Members' Potluck

The congregation is cordially invited to a potluck honoring our newest members. It will be Sunday, April 30, from 4 to 7 pm at the home of Irene Ogus and Rosalinda Del Moral. This will be a lovely day to schmooze, eat and enjoy the view from the deck. Children welcome. The address is 330 Collingwood in San Francisco. For information, please call 641-1799.



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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Michael Erceg, in honor of Rabbi Yoel Kahn
Eve Meyer, in memory of Hilda Meyer
Thomas Yazman, in memory of Stephen Walters

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Rick Crane, in memory of Gary Starliper
Whitelaw T. Terry, Jr.

Building Fund

M. Paul Schwartz

Education Fund

Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz, in appreciation for the beautiful naming ceremony
Steve Gaynes, in memory of George Gaynes
Sue Saperstein, in honor of the naming of her daughters, Sabra and Sofia, and in appreciation of P'nina Mintzer and her heartwarming officiation

General Fund

Richard Inlander, in honor of Leila Raim and Mike Rankin
Maida Cohen LaMell, in memory of Eric Keitel's mother, Shirley Keitel
Lonnie Darwin
Allan Berenstein, in honor of Al Radetsky's 75th birthday
Mr. and Mrs. Luskin
Leo and Stella, in honor of Merry Luskin
Sharyn Saslafsky and Catherine Dodd, in memory of Shirley Keitel
Lesley and Elena Sternin-Moser

Library Fund

Sam Thal, in memory of Stephen Walters
Merry Luskin, in honor of Bill Ashley-Dobbin's wonderful challah
Jacqueline Letalien, in honor of Jewish culture and wisdom

Prayerbook Fund

George Ash, in honor of the blessing of the birth and naming of Miriam Masha Veiss-Creque

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sally E. Martin, in memory of Chuck Hanson

Jacqueline Letalien, in honor of Yoel Kahn's *Coming Up!* cover photo

Hal Podgur, in memory of Hal Podgur's mother, Mollie Podgur

Michael Erceg, in honor of Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Randy Heilbrunn, in memory of Randy Heilbrunn's aunt, Francis Snyderman

Judith Schwartz, in memory of Sarah Yaeger, grandmother of Lisa Katz

Torah Fund

Richard Inlander, in memory of Sam Ross

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in March. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Susan Gelmis

Lisa Hersh

Harvey Levine

Michele Sullivan

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Out of Our Kitchen Closets—Take 2

Stumped as to what to give as a gift to a visiting relative who has everything? What can you give someone which will be a lasting memory of Sha'ar Zahav? After the sell-out printing of *Out of Our Kitchen Closets: San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking*, the second printing is available for sale now almost everywhere. Cookbooks can be purchased at many bookstores in the Bay Area and before Shabbat services on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. The cookbook will also be available at CSZ's Congregational Seder, April 20. Cookbook sales benefit the San Francisco AIDS Food Bank as well as CSZ. The next time you need to give a gift, remember our cookbook. It makes a great gift!

Classified Ads

ROOM FOR RENT in Glen Park house—garden, deck washer/dryer, storage, walk to BART. \$400 per month. Will consider renter who wants a temporary or part-time (e.g. weekend only, etc.) rental situation. Call Ed 334-9757.

ARE YOU READY for a refreshing break? Sue specializes in Massage to Music for Women. Soothing music. Beautiful massage room. Quiet location. Affordable rates. Use massage to release stress, assist your recovery from life's struggles, and celebrate your successes. Make an appointment for a relaxing, attentive massage. Certified Massage Practitioner. Sue 527-1773.

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Mike Rankin Elected To National UAHC Board

Former Congregation Sha'ar Zahav President (1983-84) Mike Rankin, who has served as Sha'ar Zahav's liaison to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) for many years, and who for the past few years has served as a vice president on the regional (Northern California) UAHC Board, was recently elected to a four-year term on the national UAHC board. *Mazel tov* to Mike!

Mike's representation of Sha'ar Zahav, as well as the worldwide gay and lesbian Jewish community, has been nothing short of outstanding. He flies around the country (and drives to some pretty remote parts of California) giving talks and slide presentations, he serves on boards, committees and task forces, and he debates, persuades, presents, hosts and kibbitzes. He has earned tremendous respect as an individual and for Sha'ar Zahav. As I wrote in my recent Va'ad agenda President's Report, "the outstanding words of praise for Mike and Sha'ar Zahav that I heard throughout the [recent UAHC regional biennial in Monterey] will sustain me for the rest of my presidency."

Richard Inlander To Serve on Regional UAHC Board

The recent election of Sha'ar Zahav's Mike Rankin to the national UAHC board left a vacancy on the regional UAHC board. At the recent UAHC regional biennial in Monterey, Richard Inlander was elected to fill that vacancy.

Richard—Sha'ar Zahav's 1987-88 president—has been active in UAHC events for a number of years. He has attended national and regional UAHC biennial conferences and has participated in the regional UAHC presidents council meetings. Richard has been, and I am sure will continue to be, an excellent representative of Sha'ar Zahav. *Mazel tov* and thanks!

—Robin Leonard, President

Yom Hashoah

This year, as part of CSZ's observance of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), the Education Committee is presenting a screening and discussion of *A Holocaust Family Album* on May 2 at 8 pm. This video was written by five Bay Area lesbians who are children of parents who survived the Holocaust. The film presents the personal stories of their survivor parents, and the experiences of these women in coming to grips with the Holocaust and the family relationships affected by it. A discussion of the half-hour video will follow its showing. The discussion will be led by CSZ member Blanche Blachman, one of the film's writers, along with other women from this project.

The committee is pleased to welcome *A Holocaust Family Album* back to CSZ where, in May 1987, the writers of the video led a panel discussion of their work then in production. The film is an outgrowth of a multimedia presentation on children of survivors created in 1983.

The video will also be shown on KQED on May 1. The committee invites everyone to join us for the discussion at CSZ on May 2 at 8:30 pm.

Healing Service

Our series of Shabbat afternoon services, Liturgy of Healing, continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 4 pm. These services are a quiet, reflective opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives, pray as a community, share personal concerns in a supportive environment and experience healing as we personally understand it.

Special music and text are included in the service to help us focus on spiritual strength and healing. A group discussion during the service permits exploration of a theme which connects to our personal search for healing. The afternoon concludes with Havdalah and potluck nosh. The service is open to everyone including those experiencing illness and loss, and those wanting spiritual renewal.

Our next service is on Saturday, April 8 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact David Glassberg (621-4371) or the synagogue office.

Sanctuary Shabbat Service

To celebrate the third anniversary of CSZ's covenant of sanctuary for Central American refugees, the Social Action and Ritual Committees will once again lead a special Shabbat Ha-Gadol service focusing on Central American sanctuary. Shabbat Ha-Gadol, the Shabbat before Pesach, has taken on a new tradition as a social action Shabbat in Reform Judaism, and this year's April 14 service, beginning at 8:15 pm, will feature songs, prayers and readings in Hebrew, English and Spanish, as well as moving testimony on the current situation in Central America and our response as Jews and Sha'ar Zahavniks. Tied in with the Passover message of freedom and liberation, the service provides a chance for reflection on the past and a look to the future. We encourage you to join with special guests from the Central American and sanctuary communities on this special evening. In addition to the ongoing AIDS Food Bank drive, please bring a donation of dried beans or rice for a special food collection that evening to benefit Grupo de la Comida, a refugee food bank resource. For more information on the service or CSZ's sanctuary activities, call Lisa at 285-4934, or Jonathan at 387-0977.



Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To **Phil Charney** on the loss of his sister, Barbara Frank.

To **Simma Lieberman** on the loss of her father, Abraham Lieberman.

To **Jerry Hipps** on the loss of his friend, John Wisman.

To **Rick Wilson** on the loss of his grandmother, Laura Wilson.

Va'ad Report

The March Va'ad meeting began promptly at 6:30 to a full house with all but one Va'ad member, as well as nine committee chairs and non-Va'ad members, attending. Steve Greenberg gave the D'var Torah, reiterating the biblical lesson that in unity there is strength. Sha'ar Zahav's financial condition has improved somewhat this last month as reported by Treasurer Ben Schalit.

Robin updated the Va'ad on two current issues: Mayor Agnos' HIV Task Force and the membership of the Human Rights Commission. Supervisor Harry Britt met with members of the gay/lesbian religious community opening a dialogue. The mayor's office is interested in appointing a spokesperson from the gay/lesbian religious community to the task force. Robin further reported the thorny issue surrounding the Catholic Church's restrictions on its clergy and the implications of these restrictions on the current Roman Catholic clergyman who is a member of the Human Rights Commission being examined by the commission itself.

Ron Lezell, who serves on the National Board of ARZA (Association of Reformed Zionists of America), gave a brief presentation on that organization. ARZA seeks to present an alternative to the extremes of Orthodoxy and Secularism in Israel. ARZA was active in presenting American concerns to Israelis during the very recent "Who is a Jew?" debate.

Two brief proposals were unanimously accepted by the Va'ad. This year's Pesach Me'ot Chitim distribution will be divided one-third to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank, one-third to MAZON (a Jewish response to hunger) and one-third to CRECE (provides food to Central American refugees). The Va'ad unanimously approved the recommendations of four new members presented by the Membership Committee.

The focus of the meeting then moved on to a detailed discussion on the two major agenda items. Don Albert presented the Finance Committee's proposed 1989-90 budget for its first reading before the Va'ad. Briefly, \$170,800 is projected to be Sha'ar Zahav's expenses while revenue is estimated to be less. Right now the best projection is a small deficit of \$4,000 to \$5,000. Members of

the Va'ad made minor revisions to expenses. These modifications will be incorporated into the proposed budget for a second reading next month before the Va'ad.

Richard Inlander, chair of the Bylaws Committee, led the first reading of proposed revisions to Sha'ar Zahav's Bylaws. Most of these proposed changes reflect the actual procedures followed now at Sha'ar Zahav. Some sections require rewriting because Sha'ar Zahav no longer has semi-annual membership meetings. Va'ad members examined very carefully the proposed changes to the quorum requirements at annual membership meetings and the raising of limits on unbudgeted expenses requiring Va'ad authorization. The Va'ad also chose to seek a procedure to fund the Ensemble without making it a standing committee. The Va'ad ended its open session at 9:29. A closed session to discuss personnel matters followed.

—Bill Goldstein, Recorder



Birthdays

2	Victoria B.
4	Peter Sergius Vishniac
6	Roberta W.
7	Gordon Osser
7	Judy Macks
12	Terry Rothchild Rose
13	Jay Cohen
14	Steven Kassirer
14	Bruce Hansen
14	Marjorie Hilsenrad
14	Lyssa Friedman
15	Susan Michelle Stahl
15	Luana Willis
16	Glenn Stoller
17	Diana Buchbinder
19	Sandy Meyers
19	Alita Rosenfeld
19	Martin Spector
19	Sandra Butler
20	Bill Ashley-Dobbin
20	Aaron Nacamulli
20	Leonard Brill
22	Sandra Blair
23	Eli Weinstein
25	Brian Ellis
26	Sarah R. Comerchero
27	Nanci Stern
27	Chris Camp
29	Shirley Liberman
30	Henry Mach

Treasurer's Notes

According to the Bylaws and Constitution of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, members receive statements of dues paid and still owed at least once each quarter. Also according to the Bylaws, membership dues are payable in advance.

With your April 1 dues statement, you will receive a new membership dues pledge form for 1989-90. Please return this membership dues pledge form to the CSZ office by April 30. This is important, especially if you will be making a dues pledge that is different from your 1988-89 pledge.

Here is a brief calendar of dates that you should be aware of when planning your dues pledges and payments for the rest of fiscal year 1988-89 and the new fiscal year 1989-90:

- March 31—End of third quarter of fiscal year 1988-89.
- April 1—Statements of 1988-89 dues paid and owing sent to members; 1989-90 membership dues pledge forms sent to members.
- April 15—Your donations and dues payments to CSZ are tax-deductible.
- April 30—1989-90 membership dues pledge forms due in CSZ office.
- May 20—To vote, your dues must be up to date.
- June 30—End of fiscal year 1988-89.
- July 1—Start of first quarter of fiscal year 1989-90.

If you have questions about your dues, please call me at 821-4134.

—Ben Schalit, Treasurer

Oneg Sponsors

During February onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

3	Mike Rankin, sponsored by the President's Council in honor of Leila Raim
10	Sandy Butler, in memory of Barbara Rosenblum
17	Bill Goldstein, sponsored by the Education Committee in honor of Bill Ashley-Dobbin's work as CSZ's oneg chair
24	Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of the congregation

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Sibling Notes

Am Tikvah (Boston)—celebrated their 12th anniversary on February 11 with a dance party attended by over 100 people, including clergy from Temple Israel of Boston, who were honored for their outreach to the lesbian and gay Jewish community.

Beth Ahavah (Philadelphia)—another “seasoned” sibling celebrates its 13th anniversary the weekend of June 2–4; tentative events include Shabbat services, a Saturday night fundraising dance and a Sunday brunch.

Beth Chai (Long Island)—disbanded last January due to lack of attendance, interest and general commitment. Beth Chai served the Long Island gay and lesbian Jewish community for four years; we’re sorry to see them go.

Beth El Binah (Dallas)—has added “Congregation” to its name, to signify its growing emergence as a congregation, not just an organization; also, they’re studying the possibility of affiliating with the UAHC. (Yes! Yes! Please contact us, Beth Chayim Chadashim (L.A.), Or Chadash (Chicago), or Etz Chaim (Miami), all members of the UAHC.)

Beth Simchat Torah (New York)—another “seasoned” sibling celebrated its sweet sixteen anniversary on February 11. *Mazel tov!* As part of its celebration, their February newsletter contained “looks to the future” by their past board chairs.

Beyt G’vurah (Minneapolis)—Beyt G’vurah will hold their second night seder on April 20, and (quoting their newsletter) “will be using copies of the haggadah developed recently by Sha’ar Zahav [of] San Francisco. We anticipate that [this] will make [the seder] more meaningful to all of us.” Thanks for the kind words, Beyt G’vurah.

Or Chadash (Chicago)—Or Chadash is busy planning to host the upcoming 11th International Conference (see below).

Yachad (South Africa)—Yachad celebrated Purim with a grand ball.

CSZ
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 21
4 pm
Mark your calendars!

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Robin Leonard
Vice President, Eric Keitel
Treasurer, Ben Schalit
Acting Recorder, Bill Goldstein

Va’ad (Board) Members:

Don Albert
Allan Berenstein
Tiela Chalmers
Steve Greenberg
Merry Luskin
Jose Luis Moscovich
Alita Rosenfeld
Jonathan Schwartz
Dana Vinicoff
Richard Inlander (ex officio)

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, Ken Burke
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children’s Chavurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Children’s Education, David Gellman & Ida Kuluk
Cookbook Project, Sanford Friedman
Dinner Chavurah, Jerry Hipps
Education, by committee
Finance, Don Albert
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Susan Stahl
Past Presidents Council, Leila Raim
Personnel, Irene Oguis

Public Relations, Sharyn

Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Steve Greenberg; assistant, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger
Social Program, Marc Mencher
Spirituality Chavurah, Larry Wexler
Women’s Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Jenny Helbraun
Secretary, Leticia Montealegre

Office Hours: Mon. 9–5; Tue. 1–5; Wed. 10–6; Thu. 9–5; Fri. 9–5.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha’ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

DR. DIANE SABIN
3892—24TH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
CA 94114
415/826-8300

CHIROPRACTIC

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

APRIL

אדר ב - ניסן

1 Saturday 25 Adar II • 9:30am, Kadimah, Bet Class	9 Sunday 4 Nisan • 4pm, Ensemble	17 Monday 12 Nisan • 7:30pm, Brotherhood at Ken Burke's, 1519 Oak #6, San Francisco	24 Monday 19 Nisan Passover—Fifth Day • 7:30pm, Education Committee
2 Sunday 26 Adar II • Daylight Savings Time begins, set ahead one hour • UAHC Pres. Council, San Jose • 1pm, Dessert and Dancing Social	10 Monday 5 Nisan • 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting	18 Tuesday 13 Nisan	25 Tuesday 20 Nisan Passover—Sixth Day
3 Monday 27 Adar II	11 Tuesday 6 Nisan • 7:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew • 8:30pm, Preparing for Passover • 8:35pm, Kaballah Class	19 Wednesday 14 Nisan Erev Passover	26 Wednesday 21 Nisan Passover—Seventh Day
4 Tuesday 28 Adar II • 7:30pm Prayerbook Hebrew • 8:30pm Preparing for Passover • 8:35pm Kabbalah Class	12 Wednesday 7 Nisan • 11:30am, Soviet Vigil, Green & Baker streets • 7:30pm, UAHC AIDS Committee meeting • 8pm, Israel Chavurah theater party	20 Thursday 15 Nisan Passover—First Day	27 Thursday 22 Nisan Passover—Eighth Day • 6:30pm, Ritual Committee • 7pm, Newsletter mailing, 14 Grandview Terrace
5 Wednesday 29 Adar II	13 Thursday 8 Nisan • 7:15pm, Newsletter editing, 1711 Castro • 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim Com. • 7:30pm, Building Committee	21 Friday 16 Nisan Passover—Second Day Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach Omer—Second Day Torah Service • 8:15pm, Services, Steve Greenberg and Ora Prochovnik	28 Friday 23 Nisan Parshat Acharei Mot Omer—Ninth Day • 8:15pm, Services, Rabbi Kahn and Nancy Snow
6 Thursday 1 Nisan • 7:30pm, Social Action Committee • 7:30pm, Long Range Planning Committee	14 Friday 9 Nisan Parshat Metzora Shabbat Ha-Gadol • 8:15pm, Sanctuary Service, Rabbi Kahn, Dana Vinicoff	22 Saturday 17 Nisan Passover—Third Day • 9:30am, Kadimah	29 Saturday 24 Nisan • 9:30am, Kadimah, Bet Class • 10:30am, Morning services, Rabbi Kahn and Bill Schlichter
7 Friday 2 Nisan Parshat Tazria • 8:15pm, Services, Daniel Chesir	15 Saturday 10 Nisan	23 Sunday 18 Nisan Passover—Fourth Day • 12 noon, Leadership Development meeting • 4pm, Ensemble	30 Sunday 25 Nisan • 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch, Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco • 4pm, New Members' Potluck, 330 Collingwood
8 Saturday 3 Nisan • Adult Education Passover Program • 9:30am, Kadimah • 4pm, Healing Service	16 Sunday 11 Nisan • 4:30pm, Spirituality Chavurah at Gordon Osser's		

2 Tuesday, May 2, 27 Nisan
Yom Hashoah, 8pm, "A Holocaust Family Album" video and discussion

5 Friday, May 5, 30 Nisan
Parshat Kedoshim, Omer—16th Day, Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, 8:15pm, Services, Bill Schlichter, Leslie Bergson

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send me _____ tickets @ \$12
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Total \$ _____

Please reserve childcare for _____ children by May 6

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